AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44.   (Cancelled).

1   45.   (Currently amended) A machine-implemented method, comprising the steps of:
2   a service requestor using an Internet Protocol (IP) address to ~~access~~ address
3   requests to a service provided by a first node within a cluster, wherein said
4   first node is configured to provide said service to requests addressed to
5   said IP address;
6   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a
7   second node of the cluster to respond to requests ~~associated with~~ addressed
8   to said IP address;
9   after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP
10   address to ~~send~~ address a message to said cluster related to said service;
11   and
12   in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response
13   that indicates an error condition.

1   46.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:
2   upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address
3   to access said service; and
4   the service requestor using said second IP address to ~~send~~ address a second
5   message to said cluster related to said service.

1   47.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:
2   storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster
3   as being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes
4   may be instructed to provide the service if the first node becomes
5   unavailable.

1   48.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:

2   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node

3   is configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the

4   cluster.

1   49.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of:

2   in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be

3   provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the

4   cluster to perform the service; and

5   instructing the standby node to perform the service.

1   50.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

2   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of

3   the cluster to perform the service;

4   determining if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may be

5   provided by another node of the cluster; and

6   if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may not be provided by

7   another node of the cluster, configuring the standby node to disallow the

8   plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster.

1   51.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising the step of:

2   in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to

3   be provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.

1   52.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein said first node comprises

2   a monitor process, and wherein said monitor process is configured to detect if said

3   first node becoming unavailable.

1   53.   (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium carrying one or more

2   sequences of instructions, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of

3   instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to

4   perform the steps of, comprising the steps of:

5   a service requestor using an Internet Protocol (IP) address to ~~access~~ <u>address</u>

6   <u>requests to</u> a service provided by a first node within a cluster<u>, wherein said</u>

7   <u>first node is configured to provide said service to requests addressed to</u>

8   <u>said IP address;</u>

9   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a

10   second node of the cluster to respond to requests ~~associated with~~ <u>addressed</u>

11   <u>to</u> said IP address;

12   after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP

13   address to ~~send~~ <u>address</u> a message to said cluster related to said service;

14   and

15   in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response

16   that indicates an error condition.

1   54.   (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

4   upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address

5   to access said service; and

6   the service requestor using said second IP address to ~~send~~ <u>address</u> a second

7   message to said cluster related to said service.

1   55.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:

4   storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster

5   as being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes

6   may be instructed to provide the service if the first node becomes

7   unavailable.

1   56.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:

4   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node

5   is configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the

6   cluster.

1   57.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 56, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:

4   in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be

5   provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the

6   cluster to perform the service; and

7   instructing the standby node to perform the service.

1   58.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

4   in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of

5   the cluster to perform the service;

6   determining if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may be

7   provided by another node of the cluster; and

8   if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may not be provided by

9   another node of the cluster, configuring the standby node to disallow the

10   plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster.

1   59.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 58, wherein

2   execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more

3   processors causes the one or more processors to perform the step of:

4   in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to

5   be provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.

1   60.   (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein said

2   first node comprises a monitor process, and wherein said monitor process is

3   configured to detect if said first node becoming unavailable.